



IT'S A DISASTER!

...and what are YOU
gonna do about it?

A Disaster Preparedness, Prevention and First Aid Manual

Compliments of

D.C. Emergency Management Agency

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office for Domestic Preparedness**



MAYOR ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents:

The District of Columbia Government continues to identify ways for our communities, families and businesses to be better prepared for known and unknown threats. We cannot always prevent emergencies or disasters. However, there are many steps we can take to better prepare and reduce the impact of hazards.

This Guide contains many suggestions to help you protect your family, prepare for emergencies, reduce hazards and personal injury. I hope you find it helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony A. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anthony A. Williams
Mayor

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Residents:

The D. C. Emergency Management Agency (EMA) has primary responsibility for ensuring that the city is safe from hazards of all types. EMA promotes community-based emergency management through preparedness, prevention and partnership with District families, communities and businesses. You can help us better plan for emergencies by encouraging your friends and neighbors to prepare!

This Guide will assist you to reduce hazards, home injuries and help you to personally prepare for emergencies.

Sincerely,


Peter G. LaPorte
Director

District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency

The **District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency (EMA)** provides 24-hour emergency assistance to the public by coordinating, mobilizing and deploying emergency services personnel and resources to save lives and protect property. EMA has primary responsibility for ensuring the city is safe from all types of hazards while helping District citizens, businesses, and city employees prepare for and respond to emergencies through education, training, and community-based programs. Other departmental services include updating emergency plans and strategies; managing special events; and informing the public of impending emergencies or disasters.

You and your community can be better prepared, by learning how to prevent disasters *before* they strike. Contact the **EMA staff at 202-727-6161** or visit EMA at **<http://dcema.dc.gov>**

Coming Soon - Fall 2003

District of Columbia Citizens Emergency Notification System (CENS)

The new **Citizens Emergency Notification System** will provide high-speed mass notification for public safety. The system will process thousands of notifications within minutes, targeting individuals, groups, and communities to receive important emergency messages. Officials will use CENS to complete automated or live messages by telephone, email alerts, text messages or pager. CENS will warn citizens within the city of any emergency situation, including weather, manmade events or Amber Alerts for missing children.

District of Columbia Emergency Management Agency
2000 14th Street N.W., 8th Floor Washington, DC 20009



Important District Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire, & EMS

EMERGENCIES

911

NON-EMERGENCIES

311

The Mayor's City-wide Call Center	(202) 727-1000
DC Emergency Management Agency (24 hour)	(202) 727-6161
TDD/TYY	(202) 727-3323
Fire and Emergency Medical Services	(202) 673-3331
American Red Cross, National Capital Chapter	(202) 728-6401
Poison Control Center	(800) 222-1222
DC Mental Health Access HelpLine (24 hour)	(888) 793-4357
TDD/TYY	(202) 673-7500
DC Health Department	(202) 442-5999
Pets and Animal Issues (Dept. of Health)	(202) 535-2323
DC Animal Shelter (24 hours)	(202) 576-6664
Verizon (phone)	(800) 275-2355
PEPCO (electric)	
(Customer service)	(202) 833-7500
(Power outages)	(877) PEPCO-62
(Life-threatening emergencies)	(202) 872-3432
Washington Gas	
(Customer service)	(202) 624-6049
(Natural Gas Emergency Number)	(703) 750-1400
DC Water and Sewer Authority	(202) 787-2000
(Water and Sewer Emergency Number)	(202) 612-3400
DC Department of Public Works	(202) 673-6833

Additional information on emergency preparedness is available by calling
FEMA at: (800) 480-2520, or
DC EMA at: (202) 727-6161

Or on the **Internet** at:
<http://www.fema.gov>
<http://www.redcross.org>
<http://dcema.dc.gov>

311 is a toll-free phone number to request police services in non-emergency situations. These are situations that are not serious, not life threatening, or not currently in progress.

Evacuation

The District Department of Transportation (**DDOT**) has installed numerous emergency evacuation (E-Route) signs throughout the city. The E-Route signs clearly identify the 24 primary emergency evacuation routes, directing motorists to I-495 or the Mall. Citizens can easily identify the E-Routes by the District bars and stripes emblem located on the street signs. During an emergency, stay tuned to your local emergency station or listen to emergency officials for instructions on which route to follow.

The **DCEMA** website -- <http://dcema.dc.gov> -- contains preparedness information, including the District Response Plan (DRP) and other materials.

The **DDOT** website -- <http://ddot.dc.gov> -- contains additional evacuation information.

And, for general information or to report signal outages, call DDOT's 24-hour Hotline: 202-671-DDOT (3368)

Evacuation Map

The map shown on the next page highlights the primary corridors radiating from downtown Washington, D.C. that have been identified as emergency event / evacuation routes (in red). Each of the routes extends to the Capital Beltway (I-495) and beyond.

During a major event or emergency situation, radial evacuation routes featuring traffic signals will be timed. In addition, 70 critical intersections on the event / evacuation routes within Washington, DC will be manned with uniformed police officers to expedite the flow of traffic and to prevent bottlenecks. These officers will also be able to direct you to alternate routes should an emergency warrant the closing of current event / evacuation routes.

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between Rock Creek Park and the U.S. Capitol serves as the dividing line for event / evacuation routes. When evacuation is ordered, motorist north of Pennsylvania Avenue will be directed North, East, and West on radial event / evacuation routes; motorist south of Pennsylvania Avenue will be directed South, East, and West on radial event / evacuation routes. None of the routes cross and no vehicles will be permitted to cross Pennsylvania Avenue during an emergency evacuation.

**D.C. Department of Health
Environmental Health Administration
Watershed Protection Division**

D.C. Floodplain Management Program

The mission of the Sediment and Storm Water Technical Services Branch is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the District of Columbia by managing land disturbing activities to prevent accelerated soil erosion and sediment deposition in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and their tributaries. The Branch develops and implements programs in storm water management, erosion and sediment control, and floodplain management in support of the regulation of land disturbing activities. The major functions of the Branch are:

- Review construction and grading plans for storm water management, erosion and sediment control, and floodplain management;
- Develop and upgrade storm water management, erosion and sediment control, and floodplain management regulations, and guidance manuals;
- Provide information on flood zones in support of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP);
- Provide technical assistance on storm water management, erosion and sediment control, and floodplain management issues;
- Coordinate the permit review process with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs;
- Review environmental impact screening forms (EISFs) and environmental impact studies;
- Review geotechnical reports;
- Provide information on soil types and characteristics.

Contact the **Sediment and Storm Water Technical Services Branch, (202) 535-2240** for assistance on the following issues:

Floodplain Management

Flood Zone Determinations
Flood Insurance
Map Amendments/Revisions
Elevation Certificates

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control

Storm Water Management

For additional information on measures to protect your property from future flood damage and other hazards, contact the **D.C. Emergency Management Agency, (202) 673-2101 ext. 1163** or visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at www.fema.gov.

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) broadcasts National Weather Service (NWS) warnings, watches, forecasts, and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, NWS sends a special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature can sound an alert and give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

NOAA Weather Radios are found in many electronics stores and cost about \$25-\$100. Some features to consider are alarm tone, battery backup, and “Specific Area Message Encoding” (SAME) programming.

NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts warnings and post-event information for all types of hazards - **weather** (*blizzards, winter/ice storms and torrential rain*), **natural** (*floods, hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes*), **technological** (*chemical or oil spills, nuclear power plant emergencies, etc.*) and **national emergencies**. NOAA collaborates with other Federal agencies and the FCC’s Emergency Alert System (EAS) to issue non-weather related emergency messages.

Local NWS offices also broadcast non-weather related emergency messages on NWR *at the request of local or state government officials*. During this type of emergency, local and state officials provide text information about the hazard and recommend protective actions for the affected areas. NWS offices have pre-arranged agreements to speed the process, since minutes and seconds make a difference. In most areas, the office of emergency management (possibly police or mayor/commissioner) is the agency responsible for establishing linkages necessary for dissemination on systems such as EAS and NOAA Weather Radio.

Programming Your NOAA Weather Radio

After purchasing an NWR with “Specific Area Message Encoding” (SAME), you should program your county, parish or independent city into the radio to alert you of weather and other emergencies for those specific areas. Program an **NWR SAME** receiver by obtaining the 6-digit SAME code(s) for that county(s) then follow manufacturer’s directions to program receiver. The codes for the District of Columbia are listed below:

<u>DC</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>SAME #</u>	<u>NWR TRANSMITTER</u>	<u>FREQ.</u>	<u>CALL</u>	<u>WATTS</u>
DC	Washington DC	011001	Baltimore MD	162.400	KEC83	1000
DC	Washington DC	011001	Wash. DC/Manassas VA	162.550	KHB36	1000

To learn more about **NOAA Weather Radios** visit www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr

District Emergency Shelters

During a major event or emergency situation, always tune in to your local news or radio for instructions on evacuation routes and shelter locations.

WARD 1

Banneker Senior High School
800 Euclid St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Reed Elementary School
2200 Champlain St. NW
Washington, DC 20009

WARD 2

Francis Junior High School
2425 N St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Terrell Junior High School
1000 1st St. NW
Washington, DC 20001

WARD 3

Chevy Chase Community Center
5601 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20015

Filmore/Hardy
1819 35th Street NW
Washington, DC 20007

Wilson Senior High School
3950 Chesapeake St. NW
Washington, DC 20016

WARD 4

Roosevelt Senior High School
4301 13th St. NW
Washington, DC 20011

Coolidge High School
6315 5th St. NW
Washington, DC 20011

WARD 5

Browne Junior High School
850 26th St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

Taft Junior High School
1800 Perry St. NE
Washington, DC 20018

Langdon Park Recreation Ctr.
2901 20th St. NE
Washington, DC 20018

Wheatly Recreation Center
1200 Morse St. NE
Washington, DC 20002

WARD 6

Eastern High School
1700 East Capitol St. NE
Washington, DC 20003

Brent Elementary School
330 3rd St. SE
Washington, DC 20019

DC Ctr for Therapeutic Recreation
3030 G St. SE
Washington, DC 20019

WARD 7

Woodson High School
5500 Eads St. NE
Washington, DC 20019

Winston Elementary School
3100 Erie St. SE
Washington, DC 20020

Kenilworth Parkside Recreation Ctr
4300 Anacostia Ave. NE
Washington, DC 20019

WARD 8

Ballou Senior High School
3401 4th St. SE
Washington, DC 20032

Wilkinson Elementary School
2330 Pomeroy Rd. SE
Washington, DC 20020

To view the **District's Emergency Shelters Interactive Map**, please visit
http://dc.gov/emergencies/shelters_imap.shtm